

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner has not acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority or receipt of the foreign priority document. Further, the Examiner has not acknowledged her acceptance of the drawings. Applicants kindly request the Examiner to do so in the next Office Action.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Shono (JP 2002-169034A). Claims 6, 8-12, and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shono in view of Noh (KR 2001-0039013). Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shono in view of Noh, and further in view of Yang (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,307).

Solely to advance prosecution of exemplary embodiments of the present invention, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 9 to include the features of dependent claims 4 and 12, respectively. Accordingly, claims 4 and 12 have been canceled, and dependencies on other dependent claims adjusted as appropriate.

The present invention as recited in claims 1 and 9 (as amended) is related to a light guide panel of an edge-light backlight system. The light guide panel comprises a light incident surface on which a prism is formed, and first and second surfaces extending from the light incident surface to reduce a direction angle of the light passing through the light incident surface. The prism pattern has a horizontal section in the shape of a triangle. The prism pattern widens the range of a horizontal direction angle of the light transmitted into the light guide panel via the light incident surface, thereby preventing darks areas.

Shono, as cited in each of the grounds of rejection, discloses an incident end surface part 3 having a triangular prism shape 12. However, the triangular prism shape 12 of Shono has a vertical section in the shape of a triangle.

Turning to Figure 4 of Noh, a triangular prism pattern is shown having an apex angle B. However, the triangular prism pattern has a vertical section in the shape of a triangle. Accordingly, neither Shono nor Noh disclose or suggest the prism pattern of the present invention having the horizontal section in the shape of a triangle to widen the range of the horizontal direction angle of the light transmitted into the light guide panel.

Yang is silent with respect to a prism pattern such as claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims distinguish from Shono, Noh, and Yang, alone or in combination.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

U.S. Application No. 10/824,477
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Atty. Docket Q80528

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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